

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND**  
**SCHOOL OF HUMAN AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
**DIVISION OF PSYCHOLOGY**

**RESEARCH REPORT**

**PSYCHOLOGISTS' AND PSYCHIATRISTS' OPINIONS ON CLUSTER B**  
**PERSONALITY SYMPTOMOLOGY IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

**By: Bronwynn Snelgar**

**Student Number: 329379**

**Supervisor: Miss Renate Gericke**

A Research report submitted to the Faculty of Humanities, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. In partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree Masters of Arts in Clinical Psychology.

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this research report is my own, unaided work. It has been submitted for the degree Master of Arts Clinical Psychology at the University of the Witwatersrand South Africa. It has not been submitted before for any other degree or examination at this or any other university.

---

**B. Snelgar**

**November 2010**

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

First and foremost I would like to thank my Dad, Roger. It is because of you that I have made it this far, thank you for believing in me, for always being there to give advice, love and support. I owe you everything.

To my family and friends, thank you for your patience and kindness. To Oliver, thank you for all the love, encouragement and understanding you have showed me this year. Lizette, thank for your honesty, wisdom, warmth and guidance.

I would also like to express my sincerest thanks to my Supervisor, Renate Gericke, for all of the guidance, support and enthusiasm that you have showed throughout, you made it an exciting process.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Declaration	ii
Acknowledgments	iii
Table of contents	iv
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction	1
Research aims	4
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Personality Development	5
2.2 Personality Disorders	8
2.3 Clinicians for and against the diagnosis of Personality Disorders in children and adolescents	10
2.4 Prevalence	14
2.5 Reasons for Personality Disorder diagnosis in children and adolescents	15
2.6 The DSM IV TR as a measure of Personality Disorders in children and adolescents	18
2.7 Symptoms relevant to Borderline, Narcissistic and Antisocial	23
2.8 Conduct Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder diagnoses	25
2.9 The developmental appropriateness of symptoms	26
2.10 Conclusion of Literature review	27
<b>Chapter 3: Methods</b>	<b>29</b>
3.1 Research Questions	29

3.2 Research Design	29
3.3 Sample	30
3.4 Procedure	31
3.5 Ethical Considerations	34
3.6 Data Analysis	36
<b>Chapter 4: Results</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Discussion</b>	<b>56</b>
5.1 The symptomology profile of Cluster B disorders	
Borderline Symptoms	56
Narcissistic Symptoms	58
Antisocial Symptoms	59
5.2 Difference in presentation between childhood and adolescence	61
5.3 The use of an overall Cluster B type	63
5.4 Applicability of the DSM-IV-TR	64
5.5 Correlations seen between the Borderline, Narcissistic and Antisocial groups	66
<b>Chapter 6 Conclusion</b>	<b>69</b>
6.1 Limitations of this study	70
6.2 Future research	70
Reference list	71
Annexure A	
Annexure B	
Annexure C	
Annexure D	
Annexure E	

## Annexure F

### **List of Tables:**

Table 1: Sample and Sample sizes	38
Table 2: Shapiro – Wilk Test for Borderline, Narcissistic and Antisocial groups	40
Table 3: Frequency Table: Borderline Children Symptoms	41
Table 4: Frequency Table: Borderline Adolescent Symptoms	42
Table 5: Frequency Table: Borderline Cluster B	43
Table 6: Frequency Table: Narcissistic Children	44
Table 7: Frequency Table: Narcissistic Adolescents	44
Table 8: Frequency Table: Narcissistic Cluster B	45
Table 9: Frequency table: Antisocial Children	46
Table 10: Frequency Table: Antisocial Adolescents	46
Table 11: Frequency Table: Antisocial Cluster B	47
Table 12: Borderline – difference between children and adolescents	49
Table 13: Narcissistic – differences between children and adolescents	49
Table 14: Antisocial – differences between children and adolescents	49
Table 15: Borderline – differences between Child / Adolescent / Cluster B	51
Table 16: Narcissistic – differences between Child / Adolescent / Cluster B	51
Table 17: Antisocial – differences between Child / Adolescent / Cluster B	51
Table 18: Frequency Counts of DSM-IV-TR Questions	53